

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: NEA/INS:JMGIBNEY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 100250

STADIS////////////////////////////////

FOR AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 100250 SENT ACTION

NEW DELHI, MAY 14TH:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 100250

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, IN, US

SUBJECT: NORTON SIMON NATARAJ

REF: NEW DELHI 5943

FOR AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN

1. WE HAVE SENT FOLLOWING MESSAGE IN YOUR NAME TO
NORTON SIMON. HOWEVER, WE ARE FINALLY BECOMING SKEPTICAL
THAT OUR INVOCATION TO GOD, MOTHER AND THE CONSTITUTION
WILL WORK. GONSALVES HAS HEARD THROUGH THE MUSEUM GRAPE-
VINE THAT SIMON IS IN PROCESS OF BUYING A MUSEUM IN
PASADENA. AND, THEREFORE, MAY NOT NEED THE MET TO SHOW
OFF HIS VARIOUS WARES. MAY 14 NEW YORK TIMES HAS STORY ABOUT
THIS. IF IT LOOKS LIKE SIMON IS NOT GOING TO GO
THROUGH ON HIS UNDERSTANDING WITH KAUL, THEN WE AGREE THAT
WE SHOULD WASH OUR HANDS OF THE WHOLE AFFAIR AND TURN THE
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MATTER OVER TO US CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES FOR INVESTIGATION.

2. QUOTE. DEAR MR. SIMON:

I AM CABLING YOU ABOUT THE SPLENDID PROPOSAL YOU AND THE INDIAN AMBASSADOR AGREED UPON IN MARCH AND WHICH I HOPE WILL VERY SHORTLY BE FULLY CONSUMMATED. WHEN I WAS LAST IN THE UNITED STATES SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, I HAD OCCASION TO MEET AGAIN WITH MR. DOUGLAS DILLON WHO WAS DELIGHTED TO

LEARN THAT THE NATARAJ PROBLEM WAS ON THE ROAD TO SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION. HE TOLD ME THAT THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART WOULD BE HAPPY TO STAGE THE PROPOSED EXHIBITION OF ART OBJECTS FROM THE SIMON COLLECTION AS SUPPLEMENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA. SUBSEQUENT TALKS BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM CONFIRM THE MET'S WILLINGNESS TO ENGAGE ITSELF WHOLEHEARTEDLY IN THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE EXHIBITION.

3. I UNDERSTAND THAT MR. ERIC GONSALVES, THE MINISTER FROM THE INDIAN EMBASSY, IS PLANNING TO VISIT LOS ANGELES NEXT WEEK AND IS READY TO WORK OUT THE SPECIFICS OF THE UNDERSTANDING WITH YOU OR YOUR AGENTS. I DO HOPE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MR. GONSALVES' PRESENCE IN CALIFORNIA TO MOVE THE PROJECT FORWARD.

4. I WANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THE UNDERSTANDING A MATTER OF SOME IMPORTANCE, BOTH IN TERMS OF THE CONTRIBUTION IT WILL MAKE TO IMPROVING CULTURAL INTERCHANGE AND COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE WORLD'S TWO LARGEST DEMOCRACIES, AND OF THE IMPETUS IT CAN GIVE TOWARD ESTABLISHING HIGHER STANDARDS OF CONDUCT WITH REGARD TO INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN PRECIOUS WORKS OF ART SUCH AS THE NATARAJ. YOU MAY KNOW THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HOPES TO VISIT INDIA IN THE FAIRLY NEAR FUTURE AND HAS TAKEN A PERSONAL HAND IN OUR EFFORT TO DEVELOP MORE MATURE AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONS WITH INDIA. WE HAVE TAKEN THE LIBERTY OF ADVISING HIM OF THE UNDERSTANDING YOU HAVE REACHED WITH AMBASSADOR KAUL, STRESSING THE UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION THIS WILL MAKE TO STRENGTHENING OUR RELATIONS WITH INDIA IN THE CULTURAL FIELD.

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5. IN ALL FRANKNESS, HOWEVER, I NEED TO STRESS THAT TIME IS OF SOME URGENCY. THE CURRENT ATMOSPHERE IN NEW DELHI IS FAVORABLE FOR ACCEPTANCE OF THE UNDERSTANDING AND YOU MAY BE ASSURED WE WILL LEND OUR SUPPORT IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE. BUT THE PRESENT AUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES MAY NOT LAST, AND WE MAY LOSE THE OPPORTUNITY OF ACHIEVING A HAPPY ENDING TO WHAT OTHERWISE COULD BECOME A MATTER OF SOME CONTENTION AND FRICTION IN INDO-AMERICAN RELATIONS.

SO I DO HOPE THAT THE SPECIFICS OF THE UNDERSTANDING CAN
BE WORKED OUT WITH MR. GONSALVES WHEN HE IS IN LOS
ANGELES. IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO HAVE COME SO FAR AND NOT
TO SUCCEED. SINCERELY, DANIEL P. MOYNIHAN. UNQUOTE. RUSH

UNQUOTE RUSH

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